



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 135

January Session, 2009

Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 43

Senate, March 23, 2009

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute joint resolution ought to be adopted.

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION CONCERNING VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and
4 purposes, become a part thereof:

5 Section seven of article sixth of the Constitution is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the choice of
8 any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an
9 election by qualified voters of the state who [are unable] do not intend
10 to appear at the polling place on the day of election. [because of
11 absence from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or because
12 of sickness, or physical disability or because the tenets of their religion
13 forbid secular activity.]

14 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
15 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
16 elected at the general election to be held on November 2, 2010, and
17 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
18 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 2, 2010,
19 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the
20 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed
21 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot labels and
22 absentee ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
23 State be amended to authorize the General Assembly to determine
24 who may vote by absentee ballot?"

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	None	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This resolution is anticipated to have a cost of \$5,000 to the Office of the Secretary of the State in FY 11 (for the November 2010 election) for providing posters with the proposed constitutional amendment question and explanation to each polling place in every municipality. This cost will cover the printing and mailing of the posters. Since all materials required for placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot are supplied by the State, no costs will be incurred by municipalities.

The Out Years

None

Source: Office of the Secretary of the State (based on costs of constitutional amendment posters for the November 2008 election)

OLR Bill Analysis**sSJ 43*****RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.*****SUMMARY:**

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to remove restrictions on voting by absentee ballot, thereby allowing the General Assembly to provide by law for electors to vote by absentee ballot if they do not intend to appear at the polling place on Election Day. Currently, Article 6, § 7 of the state constitution provides that electors may vote by absentee ballot only if they are unable to vote on Election Day because they are out of town, sick, or physically disabled or the tenets of their religion prohibits secular activity on that day.

The ballot designation to be used when the amendment is presented at the general election is: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to authorize the General Assembly to determine who may vote by absentee ballot?"

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house of the General Assembly, it will be placed on the 2010 general election ballot. If it passes by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths, it will be referred to the 2011 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2012 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves the amendment, it will become part of the state constitution.

BACKGROUND***Absentee Voting***

In addition to the constitutional reasons for voting by absentee ballot, electors may vote by absentee ballot if they are working at a

polling place outside of their voting district during the hours the polls are open (CGS § 9-135).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 1 (03/06/2009)